

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: EUR/RPE:RDHARDING

APPROVED BY: EUR/RPE:JTMCCARTHY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 024036

FOLLOWING REPEAT STOCKHOLM 411 SENT ACTION SECSTATE
JANUARY 24TH:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 411

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH TARIFF DUTY ON WINES

REF: A. STATE 6428; B. STOCKHOLM A-292, SEPT. 17, 74

1. MFA (L. STALBERG OF GATT SENPOL RESPONDED BY LETTER
OF JANUARY 23, 1975, TO REQUEST OF ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL
COUNSELOR FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING STATUS OF TREATMENT
OF WINE IMPORTS FROM EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND SWEDISH
JUSTIFICATION FOR NOT GRANTING MFN TREATMENT TO U.S. WINES.
TEXT FOLLOWS:

A. WITH REFERENCE TO YOUR LETTER OF JANUARY 14, 1975,
CONCERNING DUTY-FREE TREATMENT OF WINE FROM EEC COUNTRIES
UNDER BTN 22.05.210 AND BTN 22.05.290, I WISH TO GIVE THE
FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

B. THESE MEASURES WERE TAKEN AS A RESULT OF AN
EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN SWEDEN AND THE EEC DATED JULY
21, 1972, AND REPRESENT AN APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 15 OF
THE AGREEMENT WITH THE EEC WHICH STATES THE PARTIES'
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READINESS TO FOSTER THE HARMONIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE

8, -&48:7)574-) 049\$7:5 . THE CONCESSIONS ARE THUS PART
OF THE FREE-TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN SWEDEN AND THE EEC AND
COVERED BY THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE XXIV OF THE GATT.

2. IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER QUESTIONS, STALBERG CONCEDED
THERE HAVE BEEN DUCUSSIONS IN GATT ON WHETHER AGREEMENTS
SIGNED BY NORDIC COUNTRIES WITH THE EC MET GATT ARTICLE
XXIV PROVISIONS FOR A FREE-TRADE AREA. FURTHER, HE CON-
CURRED THAT EC HAD MADE COMPENSATIONS UNDER ARTICLE XXIV-6
TO USG ON UK AND DANISH ENTRY INTO EC CUSTOM UNION. IN
ANY CASE, GOS POSITION IS THAT THE AGREEMENT WITH EC MEETS
ARTICLE XXIV PROVISIONS AND CONCESSIONS GRANTED EC NEED
NOT BE EXTENDED TO U. S. WINES ON MFN BASIS.

3. REFTEL STATES THAT WINE WITH ALCOHOLIC CONTENT NOT
EXCEEDING 14 PERCENT IS GRANTED DUTY-FREE ENTRY FROM EC
COUNTRIES, BUT THAT THIS WAS NOT IN SWEDISH-EC AGREEMENT.
WE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT BTW 22.05.210 AND 22.05.290 ARE
INCLUDED IN SWEDISH AGREEMENT (EXCHANGE OF LETTERS) WITH
EC. WINE WITH ALCOHOLIC CONTENT OF MORE THAN 14PERCENT
IS ALSO INCLUDED IN EC AGREEMENT AND IS GRANTED DUTY-FREE
ENTRY. MOREOVER, SWEDEN UNILATERALLY GRANTED DUTY-FREE
TREATMENT FOR WINES TO "RUMP EFTA" COUNTRIES AND DEVELOP-
ING COUNTRIES, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 1973.

4. IN ADDITION TO DISCRIMINTORY TREATMENT OF U.S. WINES.
U.S. PRODUCERS INTERESTED IN SELLING IN SWEDISH MARKET
MUST OBTAIN AGREEMENT FROM VIN- OCH SPRITSCENTRALEN, A
NATIONAL MONOPOLY (SEE REF. B)
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

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